



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Contract Amendment With The University of California, Santa Barbara For Microbial Source Tracking

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to amend a professional services agreement with the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to increase the scope of work in order to conduct additional microbial source tracking in support of the Creeks Division's Laguna Channel Watershed and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study, and to increase amount of compensation by \$26,201 from Measure B funds, bringing the total contract amount to \$76,193.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On February 5, 2008, Council authorized the Parks and Recreation Director to award professional services contracts to Geosyntec Consultants and UCSB to complete the Laguna Channel Watershed and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study, to be funded by a State Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 grant. The scope of work for each contract and the watershed study have been completed; however, the Creeks Division seeks to amend the microbial source tracking contract with UCSB to complete additional work prior to moving forward with design of a water quality improvement project.

Laguna Channel Watershed Study

The goals of the Laguna Channel Watershed and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study were to quantify sources of microbial contamination, including indicator bacteria and human fecal pollution, entering the Laguna Channel and to identify project(s) that will lead to improved water quality at East Beach during dry weather. Flow from the channel contributes to high indicator bacteria levels and associated beach warnings at East Beach. Prior to the study, it was not known if the indicator bacteria were of human origin, which poses the greatest risk to human health when swimming. Field work conducted by

Geosyntec Consulting included collecting water samples and flow measurements in storm drains, the Laguna Channel, and the Laguna Lagoon. Microbial source tracking work, conducted by UCSB, included testing samples for indicator bacteria and DNA-based signs of human fecal pollution.

The final project report delivered to the City identifies the consistent presence of human waste markers in several locations within the Laguna watershed, including sites within the storm drain network and in the open channel. The report recommends that the City take several steps for identifying and/or reducing sources of indicator bacteria and human fecal pollution prior to design and installation of an ultraviolet disinfection facility at the site of the Laguna Channel Pump Station. Specifically, the report recommends testing for indicator bacteria and human fecal pollution in the storm drain network upstream of Ortega Park and in the storm drain running along Laguna Street. The City has identified additional testing sites in the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District storm drains that discharge to the ocean near the Laguna Channel. Testing of these locations will determine whether additional contamination is reaching recreational waters near the discharge of the Laguna Channel.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The initial professional services contract with UCSB was \$49,992. The additional \$26,201 included in the proposed amendment will bring the total contract cost to \$76,193. A grant from the State Water Board's Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant Program funded the initial contract. The \$26,201 contract amendment will be funded with Creeks Division Capital Program funds.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Improving the quality of water in creeks within the City is critical for protection of water quality at the beaches. The goal of the project is to improve water quality at East Beach.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office